

## **Kentucky Education Network (KEN)**

### **What is the Kentucky Education Network?**

KEN is a high-speed education centric network jointly designed and implemented by the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), colleges, universities, KY Department of Education (KDE), P-12 school districts, the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB), and all agencies of the Education Cabinet. This includes Kentucky Educational Television, Department of Workforce Investment, Department of Libraries and Archives, and The Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

KEN is the result of an unprecedented level of collaboration and joint planning. It is the foundation for the development, deployment, and operation of a set of seamless P-16 educational applications. It supports advanced research and education in order to further Kentucky's educational agenda. KEN is designed to break down the physical and political boundaries between secondary, postsecondary and adult education and to share content and resources throughout P-21 both virtually and physically.

KEN received \$20.6M general operating funds and \$8.9M for capital investments in the 2006 legislative session to implement KEN.

### **How many Kentucky students, faculty, and staff are served by KEN?**

Every K-12, community college, university, and adult student being taught by a state-supported institution or agency will be served by this high-speed network.

### **Why is KEN needed?**

Before KEN, telecommunications services to the K-12 schools and other education locations were inadequate. Access to a statewide, high-speed, affordable, educationally focused network builds upon the successes that are occurring at universities and selected K-12 districts and adult education centers across the state. A universally available high-speed network:

- Connects all students with educational and research resources that are not available locally
- Strengthens the relationship between postsecondary, adult education, and K-12 educators
- Connects pre-service teachers with real world K-12 classroom learning experiences
- Increases the opportunities for high school students to participate in dual credit courses
- Allows for educators to assess students' knowledge and subject mastery
- Supports data gathering for analysis and accountability of student and instructor performance
- Provides contemporary, up-to-date research materials for students, teachers, and faculty
- Connects students with the rich research and advanced instructional applications of Internet2
- Delivers virtual instruction to underserved areas to fill gaps in their programs
- Access to shared resources
- Collaboration among researchers

This network does for the education community what ConnectKentucky does for geographic and local communities across the Commonwealth.

At the highest level, KEN provides for all partners:

- Equity in terms of cost, geographic availability, access, and support for all learning styles
- Immediate availability
- Support of audio and video-intense learning and research opportunities
- Scalable and adaptable network design that easily supports future growth
- 24/7 network availability and support

Benefits for all KEN participants include improved security; enhanced bandwidth allowing media-rich instruction, on-line assessment, educational simulation, and greater access to the Internet for instructional use in the classroom; policy enablement; and, stabilization of service.

### **How does KEN change what we are doing today?**

Prior to KEN, the current network bandwidth for students in the K-12 community was 1 kbps per student (0.95). The national average for bandwidth per student is 2.9 kbps. Post KEN average bandwidth is 14.5 kbps per K-12 student. Projected bandwidth for the year 2011 is 40 kbps.

KEN will allow all public postsecondary institutions to modestly increase the speed of their connections beginning July 2007. This upgrade will enable them to better accommodate the insatiable bandwidth demands of researchers, faculty and students for eLearning, administrative processes, research activities and, now with the significant upgrades KEN provides for K12, collaborative activities with the K12 community.

In *Education Week's* 2007 "Technology Counts" publication, Kentucky was tied for fifth in the nation in the overall technology grades and was one of two states identified as the best at integrating technology into curriculum and classrooms.

The Kentucky Education Network won the Best of Kentucky Award for "Best IT Collaboration Among Organizations" at the 2007 Kentucky Digital Summit. The summit, co-sponsored each year by the COT and Government Technology Magazine, recognizes outstanding individuals and programs that have made information technology contributions to the public sector.

We are making great strides forward, but as we've suspected, our work has just begun.

### **For more information on KEN:**

Please visit [www.ken.ky.gov](http://www.ken.ky.gov).